

the Legislature passed a sixty days' law, and complete power was given to Governor Fowle to rid the waters of Pamlico Sound of these invaders. Up to this time factories had been established in most of the seaport towns, and the activity brought by this industry during the winter and spring months was being visibly felt by the business men of that section. The oystermen of the sound along the coast felt that they were deprived of their rights and a wail of discontent came up to your predecessors from this very worthy class of citizens to the effect that *this right was theirs and should not be delegated to foreigners*—men who were depriving them of their livelihood, and would return again to Maryland as soon as they could make their profits out of the business, etc., etc. Hence the present law of the State relating to shell-fish was enacted by the General Assembly of 1891, and being insufficient was amended by the Legislature of 1893. The principal provisions of the original act were, viz.:

1. The total abolition of dredging.
2. The institution of culling laws.
3. The adoption of standard measures.
4. The institution of the Board of Shell-fish Commissioners.

In order to carry out the provisions of this law without extra burdens upon the citizens of the State a license tax upon each boat engaged in taking oysters from the public grounds was imposed and a tax of one cent per bushel on all oysters caught from the public grounds. By this means \$12,469.44 was made available for the Commission from October 1, 1891, to December 7, 1892. (See Commissioner Lucas's report). By an amendment in 1893 the individual and boat license tax was abolished and tax on the bushel was increased from one to two cents. No other provision was made for revenue and the Commission was left to sup-